

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 74949 ACTION RANGOON IMFO
BANGKOK VIENTIANE 12 APR.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, TH

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S REPORT ON NARCOTICS SITUATION

REF: SATE 74107 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT HAS JUST RECEIVED COPY OF CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S REPORT ENTITLED "THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN SEASIA, 1973" BASED ON RESULTS OF HIS SPECIAL STUDY MISSION TO AREA IN AUGUST 1973 (COPIES BEING POUCHED). REPORT WAS ISSUED MARCH 26, 1974. NO PRESS STATEMENT ACCOMPANIED ITS RELEASE AND NEWSPAPERS, TO DATE, HAVE NOT FOCUSED PUBLIC ATTENTION ON IT.

2. REPORT READDRESSES SEVERAL THEMES RAISED BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF IN PAST AND MAKES COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY SURVEY OF NARCOTICS DEVELOPMENTS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON EXTENT
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TO WHICH HOST GOVERNMENTS ARE ACTING TO MEET PROBLEMS POSED.

REPORT ALSO COVERS IN SE
ARATE SECTION U.S. MILITARY
IROGRAMS FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IN THE PACIFIC.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THAI COUNTRY SECTION INCLUDE A LARGELY FAVORABLE REVIEW OF RTG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF CIF ROLE, STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF MULTILATERAL EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ALTERNATE CROP AND IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY DEA.

4. SUB-SECTION ON "SITUATION IN BURMA" ALSO LARGELY FAVORABLE IN ENDORSING RECENT GUB MOVES TO BREAK-UP NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING GROUS, DESTROY REFINERIES AND ARREST LEADING OPIUM FIGURES. REPORT STATES THAT BURMA HAS SHOWN WILLINGNESS "TO DROP ITS FACADE OF A NON-ALIGNED NATION AS AN EXCUSE FOR FAILURE TO COOPERATE" WITH UN AND OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., IN WAR ON DRUGS. CONTINUES WITH DISCLOSURE THAT GUB HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING U.S. ASSISTANCE AND THAT U.S. WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO A REQUEST, "FOR HELICOPTERS FOR NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES IN REMOTE AREAS." AFTER RELATING ACCOUNT OF LO HSING-HAN'S CAPTURE AND HOW HELICOPTERS WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN SEIZING AND DESTROYING LO'S STOCKPILE OF OPIATES, REPORT EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT USE OF ANY U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT AGAINST INSURGENTS RATHER THAN TRAFFICKERS. IN SEPARATE SECTION, REPORT CONTAINS RECOMMENDATION THAT "U.S. NOT PROVIDE AIRCRAFT AND OTHER NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSISTANCE TO BURMA UNLESS THAT GOVERNMENT AGREES TO USE SUCH ASSISTANCE SOLELY FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITY."

5. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WAS UNAWARE THAT REPORT WOULD CONTAIN SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO PROPOSED NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT PACKAGE TO BURMA SINCE WOLFF DID NOT VISIT THE COUNTRY DURING HIS RECENT 1973 STUDY MISSION AND DEPARTMENT'S BRIEFING FOR HIM DID NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER HIS TRIP. OUTLINE OF PLAN WAS DISCUSSED WITH HIM BY DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS AS PART OF GENERAL EFFORT TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR BURMA PACKAGE LAST SEPTEMBER (SEE MEMCON DATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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9/18/73). HE WAS TOLD THAT THE OFFER HAD NOT YET BEEN PUT TO THE BURMESE AND THAT THEY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER ANY PREMATURE PUBLICITY. MOREOVER, HE WAS NOT TOLD THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS HE HAS SINCE MADE FOR RESTRICTION ON GRANTING THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD BE PART OF THE OFFER. ON THE CONTRARY, HE WAS TOLD THAT INCIDENTAL USE OF EQUIPMENT BY RUB FOR OTHER THAN NARCOTICS CONTROL PURPOSES WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED.

6. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY WISH TO APPRISE GUB OF REPORT AND DRAW UPON ABOVE COMMENTS TO EXPLAIN APPEARANCE OF HELICOPTER OFFER IN THIS PUBLIC DOCUMENT. IF YOU DECIDED APPRISE GUB, HOPE YOU CAN DO SO IN FASHION THAT WILL NOT DISCOURAGE GUB FROM ACCEPTING OFFER. OU POLICY GOAL IS TO REDUCE DRUG TRAFFICKING AND WE CAN BE FLEXIBLE IN DEVELOPING MODALITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY LEGAL REQUIREMENT WOULD BE THAT AIRCRAFT BE USED "PRIMARILY" ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. WOLFF REPORT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO IMPLY THAT ADDITIONAL "STRINGS" MAY BE ATTACHED TO OUR AID OFFER TO BURMA.

7. COPY OF WOLFF REPORT BEING POUCHED.

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